

Kentucky Division of Emergency Management
Officials Tracking Water Release at Dix Dam

For Immediate Release

Contact: Buddy Rogers

502-607-1611

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 5, 2010) - The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KyEM), and local emergency management officials initiated a call to the manager of E.W. Brown Generating Station, which operates the Dix Dam and owned by Kentucky Utilities (KU), at Herrington Lake in Mercer and Garrard Counties, KY. The purpose of today's call to Jeff Fraley, E.W. Brown general manager, was to maintain open lines of communication between all interested parties and share information regarding technical and operational status.

Due to the unprecedented recent rainfall the water level behind the Dix Dam is at maximum pool. At one point, immediately following Sunday's near record downpour, the water level was within three (3) feet of the top of the gates.

Through careful, deliberate, controlled releases, dam officials have been able to lower this level to a safe and manageable level.

At the height of the releases officials say as many as nine (9) of the ten

(10) gates were opened at various stages to help regulate the controlled release. Currently five (5) gates are open.

Although controlled releases do eventually have an impact on communities down stream, river tributaries continue to contribute to the rise in the Kentucky River, as well.

Release information is coordinated through the National Weather Service (NWS), which tracks and posts river levels, lake levels (including Herrington Lake), issues flood warnings, river crests and river forecast on their web site.

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KyEM), the Kentucky Division of Water (KyDOW), United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) as well as other state and local emergency officials continue to monitor water levels behind all dams and levees across the Commonwealth.

John W. Heltzel, director of KyEM, had this to say, "Local, state and federal officials have been monitoring, and will continue to monitor all dams and levees across the Commonwealth to assure the safety of all our citizens." He continued, "At this time appropriate, necessary, actions have been taken to reduce levels through controlled releases." Heltzel concluded by saying, "I am confident that KU and the USACE are exercising the best management controls possible to protect the citizens of our Commonwealth."

For river levels and expected crests, visit <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/> and click on the area you wish to observe.

For additional information and safety tips, please visit KyEM's web site at www.kyem.ky.gov.

